

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application as amended. All claims have been rejected. No claims have been added or canceled. Independent claims 1, 6, 18, and 26 have been amended to emphasize that the present invention buckets items according to corresponding values / identifiers, and to emphasize that with each bucket, the corresponding task need only be performed once on each bucket, and not on each item of the bucket. Dependent claims 12 and 23 have been amended in an attempt to clarify same. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being non-statutory subject matter. According to the Examiner, such claims lack any expected system components other than software and non-functional descriptive material. Applicants respectfully traverse the § 101 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites a computer system having computer instruction modules, where the modules include a project file and a build engine. Generally, the project file as recited has a plurality of items, and the build engine in generating code from the project file batches / groups into buckets the items of the project file based on a value representing a set of attributes for each item, and then executes the task once for each batch of items.

Thus, such claim 1 recites system components that interact based on functional descriptive material recited in connection therewith. In particular, the descriptive material encompasses the items in the project file that inter-relate to the batch engine inasmuch as the batch engine batches or buckets the items in the manner recited. Moreover, such descriptive material achieves the functional result of reducing the number of times a task need be executed by the build engine.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom in fact recite statutory subject matter such as is required by § 101. As a result, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection.

Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Ap. Pub. No. 2004/0015831 (Bowhill). Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(e) rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

In the invention set forth in the claims as amended, a project file is to be compiled or the like to form an executable or the like. The project file in particular has at least one task which consumes or uses a plurality of items, where each item may represent data organized in some form such as a file or the like. Significantly, each of the plurality of items is associated with a value or identity that represents a set of attributes. As set forth in detail in the specification, the attributes for an item can be metadata relating to the item, and in any event can be employed to group the item. Such grouping can take any appropriate form, as can the value / identity of each item.

A build engine receives the project file with the task and the items, and generates executable code from the project file. Notably, in doing so, the build engine groups into buckets the plurality of items of the task of the project file based on the value representing the set of attributes for each item. That is, if some of the items can be represented by a value A and some of the items can be represented by a value B, one bucket may be filled (so to speak) with the items having value A and another bucket with items having the value B.

Accordingly, each bucket represents a particular value and contains at least one of a plurality of the items of the task having the represented value, and the build engine executes the task once for each bucket thereof. That is because the build engine has grouped like items into buckets based on the value / identity of each item, the build engine need not execute the task for each item. Instead, the build engine can more efficiently execute the task once for each bucket, with the understanding that doing so obtains the same result.

In the claims, the invention is set forth according to claim sets headed by independent claims 1, 6, 18, and 26. Generally, claim 1 recites the invention according to a system with the project file and the build engine; claim 6 recites the invention according to a method of analyzing the project file to arrive at first and second buckets which are each execute once, claim 18 recites the invention according to a method of grouping the items to arrive at first and second buckets which are each executed once, and claim 26 recites the subject matter of

claim 18 in the form of a computer-readable medium. Notably, all of the claims as amended require:

- a project file with a task having items, each of which is associated with a value or identity that represents a set of attributes of the item;
- grouping the items of the task into buckets according to value / identity so that each bucket represents a particular value / identity; and
- executing the task once for each bucket.

Bowhill discloses a system for building software packages, where the system creates a batch file for each software package to be built, and where the batch file specifies instructions for creating an executable file for each software package. However, Bowhill discloses that each batch file is processed separately, and therefore does not appreciate that circumstances may allow for grouping the batch files and processing the groups of batch files together in a manner akin to that set forth in the claims of the present application.

Thus, Bowhill does not disclose that items of a task in a project file can have values or identities associated therewith and that such values / identities can be employed to group such items, as is set forth in the claims of the present application. Moreover, Bowhill does not disclose grouping such items into buckets or the like, where each bucket represents a particular value / identity, as is required by the claims of the present application, or that by doing so, the task can be executed once against each bucket, as is also required by the claims of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Bowhill does not disclose all of the features recited in the claims of the present application, including claims 1-30. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that Bowhill does not in fact anticipate such claims 1-20, and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2928 / 302925.01
Application No.: 10/772,791
Office Action Dated: April 6, 2007

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 6, 2007

/ Joseph R. Condo /
Joseph R. Condo
Registration No. 42,431

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439